

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



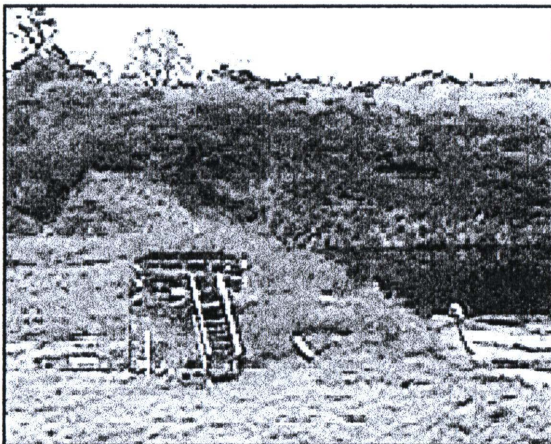
No. 68

January 2005

ROMAN ROADS AND SEETHING WELLS

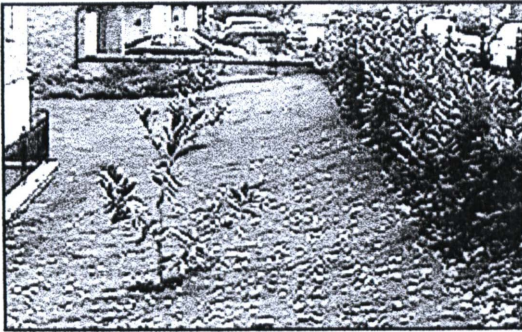
The evidence for direct connection between Roman roads and leys seems to be building up - the stretch of the branch road recently found from Stroude Road, Egham to Thorpe is on the line of a ley going through Laleham church to the ancient church at Littleton, which is on the ley Lionel Beer found linking the church and chantry chapel in Kingston, and Christopher Wren's Diana Fountain in Bushy Park. This line goes through an area of Surbiton's riverside called Seething Wells, and I wondered about the well that might have been the origin of this name. On investigating it, I found what seems to be yet another Roman branch road, this time linking the London-Silchester road with Stane Street, also going through the Diana Fountain - seeming evidence of an ancient alignment system which the Romans used in surveying their roads, but which was in itself far more extensive.

The "seething well" at Surbiton was mentioned by the antiquarian John Aubrey in his "Surrey" volume, in the section on Kingston-on-Thames: "About half a mile from the Bowling-Green at the West End of the Town, is a



The Seething Well?

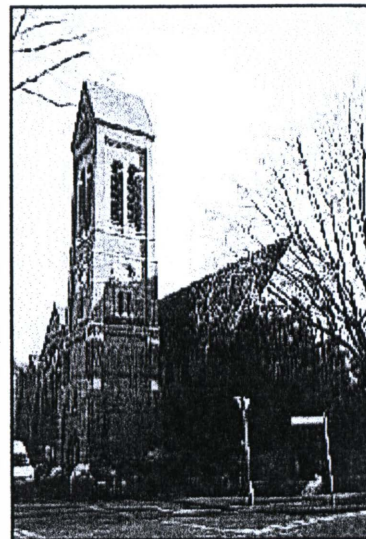
spring that is cold in Summer and warm in Winter; it bubbles up, and is called Seething-well. The Inhabitants thereabout do use it to wash their Eyes with it, and drink of it". Liz Pearson on the Seething Wells web site says: "Seething Wells, the riverside land taken over by the water companies, takes its curious name from a spring which "bubbled up" on the riverside close to the Portsmouth Road. It was famous for its purity and healing properties and there are some well documented accounts for the spring being warm or



The bank at Seething Wells Lane

limit subsequent to Dr. John Snow's research on the causes of cholera, took away a healing well, but the position of the structure seems to indicate that they used the water of the spring as part of their source, along with water from the river.

On the same Ordnance Survey map on one of the filter beds adjacent to the well, is marked "Roman Remains Found Here". The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record revealed that this was a greyware Roman burial urn and jar; there was also a Roman coin found in nearby St. Andrew's Road. (St. Andrew's Church nearby, which I visited, was found to be particularly powerful even though dating from only 1872. It is on the Lyne-Longcross ley described in a previous issue). When visiting the area, I found that Seething Wells Lane, pointing at the river, is on a definite bank and I wondered about the possibility of it being a Roman road. John Leland, a sixteenth century antiquarian, mentions that there were substantial remains of Roman buildings, silver and gold coins and pottery found two miles to the north-east at Kingston in the time of Cardinal Wolsey, (nowhere near any known Roman road).



**St. Andrew's Church at
Seething Wells, Surbiton**

Looking at the map, it could be seen that the alignment of the lane crossed Hampton Court Park on the other side of the river to point at the Diana Fountain. In the other direction it points towards Ewell, where there was a Roman settlement. There is a present-day branch road off the main Roman London-Silchester road at Feltham (the modern A315). It is called Bedfont Lane, and it also points at the Diana Fountain, though at a slightly different angle, suggesting a bend in the road there. Today this road veers off after about half a mile, but John Stockdale's map of 1805 shows it extending almost to Bushy Park. This (with Lionel's ley through the fountain)

even hot. There is some evidence that the spring still exists at Seething Wells".

On the large scale Ordnance Survey map surveyed 1865-7, the position of a river-side well is marked between two of the filter beds there, and, visiting it, a cylindrical structure was found on this spot, though it certainly does not look ancient - it is capped and has a metal ladder running up the side. It is ironic that a water utility, placed there above the tidal



**The main Roman road at Feltham,
with Bedfont Lane branching off**

ment. From here it passes through Hanworth Park House and Hanworth Park, where there seems to be an indication on the aerial photograph and one which seems to be visible on the ground. A contour line on the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 map also follows it at this point, indicating a slight ridge there.

Crossing Hampton Court Park golf course to a clump of trees by the river, there seems to be a very faint indication of a line on the aerial photograph, following the alignment. There would presumably have been a ford at the river crossing, as the Romans tended not to have bridges in open country because of the risk of ambush. The Twickenham Museum web site says: "A ferry at Hampton Court superseded a ford some time before 1536 and was itself replaced by the first bridge in 1753".

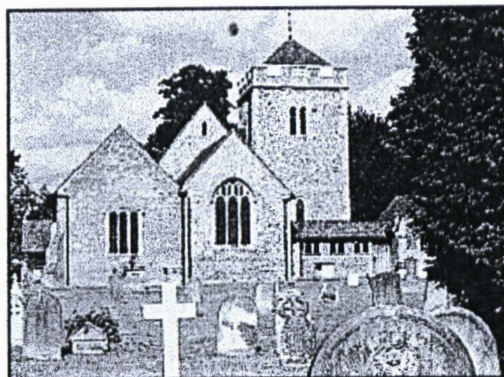


**Hanworth Park, looking towards
Hanworth Park House**

The bank along Seething Wells Lane is visible on the aerial photograph, and seems to continue a little beyond it, though not far. The alignment points at the junction of Ruxley Lane and Chessington Road, which may represent another ley centre bend. From this junction to Stane Street there seems to be a faint line visible, not representing any of the present roads; this is on a slightly different alignment, indicating a bend at the junction point. Bourne Hall Museum, the flying-saucer-like building mentioned in a previous issue, is directly on the course of it. It is on the site of an earlier house, and was found to be on a particularly good ley going through a striking clump by Virginia Water Lake, Virginia Water Church, St. Anne's Hill hillfort, the site of Chertsey Abbey, a church in Hersham, Waynflete's Tower in Esher, Esher Churches (the present parish church and the older St. George's, frequented by Queen

Victoria), Ewell Church and Bourne Hall. I cycled along this ley to check it out in 2000.

The Bourne Hall web site says that the lake was formed in the middle ages as a fishpond, and in the 18th century it was refashioned as a formal water feature, only to be given its more natural outline to suit the Victorian garden. The water rose at several points within the lake, and up until Roman times offerings were made to these springs, which were sacred.



Stoke Poges Church

The leys coincident with the three road stretches are these: firstly, the Bedfont Lane stretch. The ley is of course coincident with Bedfont Lane and goes through a church there, then another church in Feltham. It is then coincident with Forest Road. Hanworth Road is very widely mean-following, but the line goes through a multijunction with a boundary on it, and a cross-roads. It then goes through the Diana Fountain, a church with a spire in Surbiton, and crosses Stane Street at right angles. Finally it goes through a track multijunction in Nonsuch Park and a church in Belmont. In the other direction, it passes through a church and coincident road in Upton Lea, and Stoke Poges church, which dates from Saxon times and is famous for Thomas Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" poem:

*The curfew tolls the knell of parting day
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.*

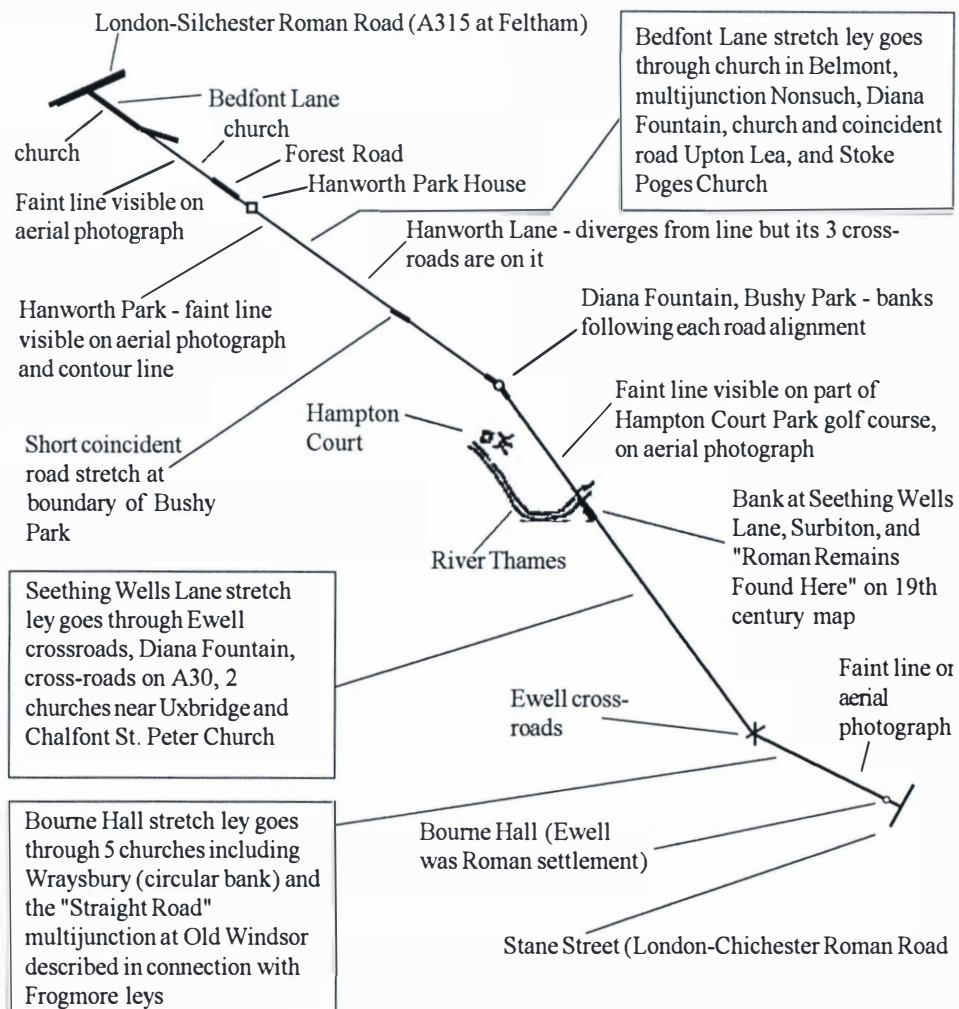
The Seething Wells Lane stretch goes through the Ewell cross-roads/tracks where the Roman road seems to bend, is coincident with Seething Wells Lane, then goes through the Diana Fountain, a cross-roads on the A30, two churches near Uxbridge and Chalfont St. Peter church.

The Bourne Hall stretch seems to be the most interesting of all. It goes through Bourne Hall, a church with a spire in West Ewell, two churches at Weston Green, Sunbury church, Wraysbury church (mentioned in a previous issue as being within a circular bank), and the "Straight Road" multijunction at Old Windsor described extensively in the issue describing the Frogmore leys.

In addition to this, there is the site of a Roman villa on Ashted Common to the south, which the Leatherhead and District Local History Society website indicates was probably the centre of a small brick and tile making business, using the heavy clay of the Common. There

is a straight boundary to the north aligning with it, (according to the West London map, which has a slight difference of opinion with the Dorking and Reigate map regarding its position) connecting with another at a slight angle aligning with the Ruxley Lane junction, where the branch road bends. Could this represent a road linking the villa to the branch road? The northern stretch of this aligns with several churches to the north, and Telegraph Hill and Mark Oak Gate on Great Bookham Common to the south, and the southern stretch aligns to the north with a church and a number of multijunctions and crossroads, and the tumulus on Parliament Hill where Tony Wedd first became aware of the leys.

ROMAN LINK ROAD?



WHEN RAILWAY PIONEERS MET FAERY MISCHIEF

by Paul Screeton

It was appropriate that British Rail named a Class 91 electric locomotive after novelist Robert Louis Stevenson. He was, however, also an accomplished poet and it was equally fitting that revolutionary rail photographer Colin T. Gifford named the two volumes of his best steam era portfolios after phrases in the last line of Stevenson's poem "From A Railway Carriage." I'll give four lines of his verse as a taster, particularly as I will be considering the machinations of faeryfolk and wizardry:

*"Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches ...
And here is a mill, and there a river:
Each a glimpse and gone forever!"*

The art of interpreting the landscape in terms of numinosity has several names: from the clinical geomancy to sinister psychogeography and my favourite, Hermetic topography, coined by geomant Bill Porter of Loughton, Essex. Traditional Australian aborigines still believe each stone and tree has its own spirit and they journey along invisible "song lines". We modern Britons have all but lost contact with a landscape which was once enchanted. Occasionally tales surface of deeds which remind us that presences still guard the sacredness of scenery.

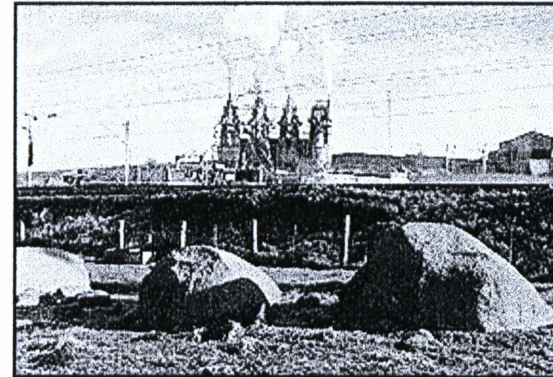
One who chose to alter the landscape was visionary George Stephenson, a hard headed railway pioneer whose surveying led him to drive his line through a reputed fairy hill in County Durham, at Middridge, but he found himself facing an engineering problem blamed upon supernatural intervention. The sides of the cutting through the hill were supposedly being pushed down by the indignant elementals and he faced a plea for extra money from the contractors to complete this section. Whether he believed the problem to be supernatural or technical, Stephenson was left no option but to approach the Quaker backers and put the case for additional finance. ¹

Another railway line to Darlington was constructed shortly afterwards to transport ore from Merrybent mine on Gatherley Moor, apparently rich in copper deposits. Unfortunately the venture proved commercially non-viable and certain persons held the fairies which were said to inhabit Diddersley Hill responsible. ²

Another example of mysterious forces hindering a railway scheme focuses upon a guardian or heirloom skull known as Dicky O'Tunstead. A long catalogue of misfortune associated with the skull included farm beasts sickening, crops failing and strange sounds, yet when well treated it was believed to bring good fortune. However, the skull was blamed for railway bridges built across the Peak Forest farmland collapsing in 1862 and causing the line to be rerouted. The bridge that eventually became permanent came to be known as Dicky's Bridge.

As for the skull --actually female and possibly prehistoric --in 1985 it was buried by the wife of the farm's present owner in the garden. ³

When the Victorians forged northwards with what we now know as the West Coast Main Line, they cut through the Neolithic stone circle called Kemp Howe by Shap quarry. There are many accounts of woe befalling those who desecrate ancient monuments and I was not surprised to learn of problems at this Cumbrian location, even so long after engineers chose to bury half the terminating site of an avenue of sacred megaliths. Discussing Virgin's present locofleet and future plans, journalist David Brown asked if there were any upgrade



Shap stones and railway

current problems. As Jackie Townsend, Virgin Trains' Operations Manager West Coast, confided, "current" was the operative word: "We do have a mystery problem --our very own 'X file' if you as like! There is a disconfiguration problem on the W.C.M.L. near Harrison's Sidings, Shap, which means we suffer lossof power often in the afternoon. The locos have been tested and the overhead wires have been tested and so far we have not found the

source of the power loss. So we'll keep on looking!" ⁴

As for prehistoric stone circles, one theory among of many to explain their origin and specific siting is Terence Meaden's novel notion that Stone Age engineers built them where they saw a wind vortex in motion. This is not the place to argue the pros and cons of corn circles, but two rail associations with cereology are worth a mention.

Noel Ingram was trainspotting at the bridge over the East Coast Main Line at Swayfield, Lincs. on June 7, 1962, when "I was enjoying the countryside between trains when there was a sudden roaring in a crop field of to the left of the (railway line). A sudden whirlwind whipped up the crop skyward and then stopped as suddenly as it had begun --leaving a ring of flattened crop! I was too startled to use the camera hanging around my neck." This bizarre event appears to be given in an extended caption recording the passing at 6.40pm that day of Class A4 No.60015 Quicksilver on of the Tees-Tyne Pullman (which by my memory and reckoning should have been in London by 2.30pm). ⁵ Quicksilver is another name for mercury and to Patrick Harpur has suggested corn circles are created by the god Mercury. ⁶

Also among the rich lore which has attached to corn circles is the occasional manifestation

of a low-frequency sound which in folklore goes by the moniker "hummadruz." It existed before the Industrial Revolution but among many explanations from the pragmatic to the esoteric, one researcher's prime candidate was submarine communications at around 76Hz/sec in frequency.⁷ The "hum" was apparently common in York at the time the local engine shed was a host to a squadron of Deltic class diesel locos, which by a maritime connection were powered by twin Napier of engines of a type used in motor-torpedo boats. York motive power depot was believed to be the culprit.

References:

- (1) Screeton, Paul. "Two Middridge fairy tales" Mail, 2 Hartlepool ? March, 1977
- (2) Turnbull, Noel. "Strange ladies" Northern Echo Dec.6 1976
- (3) Billingsley, John. "Stony Gaze" Capall Bann 1998
- (4) Traction October 1999
- (5) The Crop Watcher Issue 2 1990 (monitored from Steam World September 1990)
- (6) Harpur, Patrick. "Mercurius in the cornfields" The Cereologist No.11 1990
- (7) Hill, Ronald. "Hums, stones and circles" The Cereologist No.17 1996

NOTES AND NEWS

The Society of Ley Hunters Spring Convention 2005

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th March 2005

Barley Town House, Barley, near Royston, Cambridgeshire

Saturday: 11.00 and 11.30 - visits to Royston Cave, enigmatic structure with remarkable carvings below the street in Royston.

1-15 to 7.30, Talks at Barley Town House.

Gordon Harris, on Straight Tracks and Watercourses

Jonathan Harwood, on the Relationship of Church Sites in Dorset

Jimmy Goddard, on the Prehistoric Landscape and Leys of North-West Surrey

Bob Brown, on the Secret of Sele

Eileen Roche, on the Best Ley in Surrey

Tony Charlton, on Stones in Essex and Hertfordshire

Paul Dunbavin, on Atlantis

Sunday: 10 a.m. Meet at the Town House for field trip to the Bartlow Hills, Romano-British burial mounds.

2.15 p.m. Short talks by SOL members.

Transport arrangements for the unwheeled will be arranged from Royston.

For further details please contact Adrian Hyde, 7, Mildmay Road, Romford, Havering, Essex, RM7 7DA.



The Bartlow Hills - engraving by J. Webb from a drawing by J. Greig for *Excursions through Essex*, 1819. From *Essex, a Shell Guide*, Norman Scarfe, 1968.

London Earth Mysteries Circle meetings

The Diorama Centre, 34, Osnaburgh Street, London NW1

(Some meetings may be transferred to Diorama 2 in Triton Square, accessed past the Goat in Boots Inn, Drummond Street)

£4, conc £3.50, members £2.50

7.00 p.m. Tuesdays:

8th February - The Geography of Celtic Myth, by Ken Rees

22nd February - The Resonant Harmonics of Pyramids, by Simon Michel

8th March - A Sense of Place: Chaos Magic meets Psychogeography

22nd March - The Real Da Vinci Code - Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince

12th April - Open Forum and Social

TEMS meetings

Meetings at Wimbledon, please contact Ann on 020-8544-9478

2.30 p.m. Sundays:

27th February, Paul Newman, topic to be advised.

20th March, The Greek Underworld and the Oracle of the Dead in the Bay of Naples, by Michael Bingus and Rick Gibson.

24th April Leys - a Multi-faceted Phenomenon, by Jimmy Goddard.

22nd May, Chanctonbury Ring, by Bob Brown.

Visible leys

Simon Losh of New Zealand writes:

Hi Jimmy, got your address from The Megalithic Portal. In the 70s I lived on Bodmin Moor near the Hurlers Stone Circle and one day walking on the moor in the mist I could see the lines with the naked eye, they looked like lines of energy lined up with the Cheesewring/ Stowes Pound rock outcrop, near Minions village. They were not like car headlights in mist, as those diffuse and spread. These were almost tangible, like cable power lines only a ghost image of electro-magnetic energy, about chest height, lined up with granite hill of The Cheesewring. Geomagnetic or Dragon lines---they do exist and probably can be recorded with the correct equipment, or hazel/dowsing rods.

The local rock is granite, containing quartz, and so a lot of natural background radiation. I saw somewhere recently that quartz stone circles vibrate with ultrasound on Vernal and Autumnal Equinoxes --- Singing Stones? Strange but true, I have seen them with my own eyes!

I now live in New Zealand, but have still retained my interests in such things and know of the work of Alfred Watkins, who obviously was a sensitive with a scientific enquiring mind (crank?). So was Edward Bach of Bach Flower fame.....

The Solar Transition Effect

When on holiday in Youlgreave in Derbyshire in August, 1991, I found by dowsing that there was a ley running up a garden path of our cottage and through the hallway and kitchen. (It was about six paces wide - the width of most leys. Wider ones seem to be a rarity). There seemed to be nothing unusual in this finding - it is a strange fact that we always seem to be subconsciously sited in cottages that happen to be on leys. (Yes, it is ourselves in these cases that seem to be subconsciously sited - we get all our cottages from the Church Times, who would no doubt be horrified!)

On the Tuesday evening, however, I noticed particularly strong head-hum while walking down the path to the car to get something from it. On checking with the rods, I found the ley had grown to double its width! I noticed that the sun was just setting, and also that the church bells were ringing, so I felt that one or both could be the cause of the effect. I dowsed the ley continually for a while, and found that the line resumed its normal size after twenty-five minutes.

The next day at sunset, when the bells were not ringing, I tested the line again, and found the effect repeated - it was clearly the sun that was responsible and not the bells. At the same time I tested another line, a ten-pace alignment from the church which ran along the bottom of the garden. This became twenty paces during the sunset period. I was most excited - do all leys double in width at sunset? And what about sunrise?

Testing both leys at sunrise gave exactly the same result - and for about the same length of time. It seemed to be an effect of the sun's rays passing horizontally across the energy lines. On arriving home at Addlestone, I tested a ley there - the six-pace-wide midsummer sunrise line through St. Augustine's Church and our house. Like the Derbyshire lines, it doubled in width, becoming twelve paces wide at sunrise and sunset, and for about the same time again.

At this point I thought of the E-line the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group followed on the Pitch Hill Project, discovered by Eileen Roche and Gordon Millington in November 1990 as a very wide dowsable band of energy crossing Pitch Hill in Hurt Wood, Surrey. The line is usually about 100 paces wide, unique in our experience, and probably a great rarity in actuality. Eileen found at Avebury that even the famed St. Michael Line cannot match it, despite the fact that it, like the other ley, does not pass through a lot of well-known prehistoric sites (although it is a good ley mapwise). Surely this line could not double? At the earliest opportunity that I could arrange, my wife Doris kindly took me to South Holmwood Church, the most convenient point on the E-line to test the effect. This was on Sunday, 8th September. We arrived just before the time I had come to call "the sunset window", and I found the line to be its normal width. Then, quite suddenly, it expanded to a staggering 212 paces! A geomantic corridor indeed!

A little later I tested the effect when on a visit to Scotland, and found that the sunrise window was slightly longer - by about ten minutes. This is not unexpected as the angle of sunrise would be more oblique as the location is further north.

The sunrise/sunset effect would seem to be one of great importance. It must be like a great standing pulse following the terminator as it rushes westwards round the Earth. There can never be a time when this ever-moving great circle is not stimulating leys to activity somewhere on the planet.

Apologies for the wrong numbering of the last two issues.

MEYN MAMVRO Ancient stones & sacred sites in Cornwall	Sample £2.20 Annual Subscription £6.50 from:- 51 Carn Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR197QX. Web site: www.meynmamvro.co.uk ***** Also available: EM Guides to ancient sites in Cornwall, 'Pagan Cornwall: Land of the Goddess' & 'In Search of Cornwall's Holy Wells' 'Megalithic Mysteries of Cornwall' Details from the above address
<i>Earth Energies * Ancient Stones * Sacred Sites * Paganism * Leypaths Pre-history and culture * Megalithic Mysteries * Legends & Folklore</i>	

THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS

The Hidden Unity looks at the strange phenomenon of subconscious siting of ley points, and notes that places of worship, of all religions and all ages, tend to predominate on leys. The environmental and philosophical implications of this are discussed, and the apparent necessity of worship but irrelevance of doctrine. Two ley centres are given as examples, and investigated in depth - the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Scunthorpe. There is an appendix by Eileen Grimshaw on the significance of the Pagan religion to this study. Illustrated with photographs, maps and line drawings. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

Beginnings is about a series of potentially useful discoveries, mainly made by Jimmy Goddard over a period of about twenty years, but having some overlap with discoveries made by others. For various reasons, the investigations are all in their early stages, and some have not been continued. They include earth energy detection, natural antigravity, subconscious siting, ley width, and the solar transition effect. There is also a chapter on cognitive dissonance - a psychological factor which seems to have been at the root of all bigotry - scientific, religious and other - down the ages. The booklet is concluded with an account of the discovery of leys by Alfred Watkins. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

EARTH PEOPLE, SPACE PEOPLE

In 1961, Tony Wedd produced a manuscript *Earth Men, Space Men*, detailing many claims of extraterrestrial contact. It was never published, and I had thought it was lost, though it has recently been located. To try to make up for the loss in a much more modest size, this booklet was prepared. As well as giving details of some of the more prominent contact claims, there are articles on the history of the STAR Fellowship and some of its personalities, evidence for life in the Solar System and investigation into extraterrestrial language.

£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.

THE LEGACY OF TONY WEDD

This CD-ROM is an electronic form of the travelling exhibition Tony planned, using his voice, writing, photographs and drawings to illustrate his research and findings in the fields of flying saucers, landscape energies and lost technology.

£12 from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.

TOUCHSTONE is the newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. **£2** for four quarterly issues from J. Goddard, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15. 2PX. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. **IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE:**